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04-03-06

*ITW*  
PATENT APPLICATION  
10/697,485



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Edward J. Stashluk, Jr. et al  
Serial No.: 10/697,485  
Filing Date: October 30, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 3625  
Examiner: Robert E. Rhode, Jr.  
Title: MERCHANDISE RETURN SYSTEM WITH VALUE  
ADDED RETURNS PROCESSING (DATA  
COMMUNICATIONS)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL**

I hereby certify that the attached Response (2 pages), Baker Botts return post card (1 postcard), and this Certificate of Mailing (1 page) are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on this 31st day of March 2006 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia.

*Willie Jiles*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Willie Jiles

Express Mail Receipt  
No. EV 733647193 US

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Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND/OR ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action mailed March 16, 2005, which sets forth an election of inventions requirement. In response to the election of inventions requirement, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-20, drawn to method, performed by a returns provider, of handling customer returns of items on behalf of multiple merchants including notifying the merchant of a return package, based on the results of the correlating step, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

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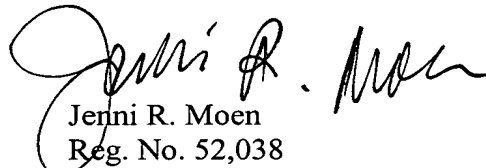
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**CONCLUSION**

Although Applicants believe that no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicants

  
Jenni R. Moen  
Reg. No. 52,038  
(214) 953-6809

Date: March 31, 2006

**CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:**

Customer No. **05073**